

who have statements are encouraged to work with the amendment managers on a time to come to the floor. Following the use or yielding back of time, a vote will occur at approximately 2:30 this afternoon. After the disposition of the Levin amendment, it is hoped the Senate can proceed to a vote on final passage of the bill.

For the remainder of the day, it is the intention of the leader to begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill. Senators, therefore, can anticipate votes into this evening's session.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3709

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3709) to extend for 5 years the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on the bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2521, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2521) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Levin amendment No. 3154, to strike certain provisions which require ground troops be withdrawn from Kosovo by a fixed date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The pending amendment is the Levin amendment No. 3154.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Kansas, Mr. ROBERTS, is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for 20 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. LEVIN. Reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there is a time that has been allocated to each side. I ask my good friend from Kansas whether or not the additional 5 minutes will come out from the time that is allocated to his side.

Mr. ROBERTS. The Senator is correct. Last night I asked, under a unanimous consent request, for 20 minutes. I discovered this morning it was 15 minutes. I am merely asking for an additional 5 minutes. Obviously, it will come out of our time.

Mr. LEVIN. I have no objection if it comes out of their time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to lend my support to the proposed legislation by my colleagues, Senator BYRD and Senator WARNER, in reference to U.S. obligations and involvement in Kosovo and, in a larger sense, in NATO as well, and in opposition to the amendment to strike that has been offered by the distinguished Senator from Michigan.

In this regard, I am a cosponsor of the language introduced several weeks ago by the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER. I had the privilege of being in the Presiding Officer's chair when he introduced his legislation. Senator WARNER, after many trips to Kosovo and firsthand experience, became convinced that our united efforts in the Balkans would have no chance of success unless promises made by our allies were kept—obligations for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction so crucial to any positive outcome.

Senator WARNER, in effect, issued a strong warning to our valued allies, and I believe his legislation has become a catalyst for action. Almost every contributing NATO ally and the officials within the administration, has assured the chairman, that they have been, are, or will step up to the plate and fulfill their financial obligations.

I feel with certainty that President Clinton can and will certify the Warner requirements have been met, so essential to achieving peace and stability in Kosovo. Regardless of how Members feel about this legislation or U.S. involvement in Kosovo, we owe Senator WARNER a debt of gratitude.

The second part of this legislation has been authored by Senator ROBERT BYRD. His knowledge of the U.S. Constitution has no equal in this body and his tireless efforts in defending and protecting the constitutional prerogatives of this institution will be among the many legacies he will leave us.

Senator BYRD has a not-so-unique conviction. He believes, and I believe, that we should balance the need for Presidential flexibility in foreign affairs and our constitutional power of the purse.

His legislation signals the end to open-ended—and I emphasize the word “open-ended”—U.S. peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and by periodic reporting promote actual consultation with the Congress and enable us to abide by the Constitution's directives on the separation of powers.

I certainly identify with Senator BYRD's purpose, as I authored a somewhat similar reporting requirement in 1998 during consideration of the Defense appropriations bill, as did Senators CLELAND and SNOWE. This is not new ground we are plowing. The reporting requirement was a little different. It was after the fact, and it was a foregone conclusion in terms of our involvement. We were trying to better determine the mission, the cost, the timing, et cetera. Again, this is not new ground we are plowing.

Notwithstanding the actual content of the Byrd-Warner amendment, it certainly has caused quite a fuss, so much of a fuss that the Senate of the United States is actually in the midst of a foreign policy debate, some \$15 billion and 6 or 7 years into intervention in the Balkans.

We actually have Senators in both the Republican conference and the Democratic caucus involved in some very spirited debate about the U.S. policy in the Balkans, so emblematic of the so-called Clinton doctrine. Imagine that, foreign policy actually getting some attention in the middle of an election year and a Presidential campaign. That is good. That is not bad; that is good. We need this debate.

In fact, I know of two Senators, the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CLELAND, and this Senator from Kansas who have braved the morning business hours, always held in the late afternoons, to launch what we call a foreign policy dialog and discuss at length our vital national security interests, the direction of our foreign policy, and the use of force and related topics.

A few Senators have joined us, particularly Senators HUTCHINSON, HAGEL, LUGAR, and LEVIN. It was a good dialog. We will have more. But this debate is about an actual amendment calling for the Senate to meet our obligations and responsibilities to be an equal partner with the executive in determining where and why our American men and women in uniform are put in harm's way, and for what purpose, and commensurate with our commitments in regard to our allies.

This is almost beyond the hopes of Senator CLELAND and myself, who have been trying to attract attention to this topic for the better part of this session.

My colleagues, this legislation does us, our military, and the American people a big favor, it seems to me. It places the Congress into a process, a process where we already have a constitutional obligation. Simply put, if we, as a body, believe our continued